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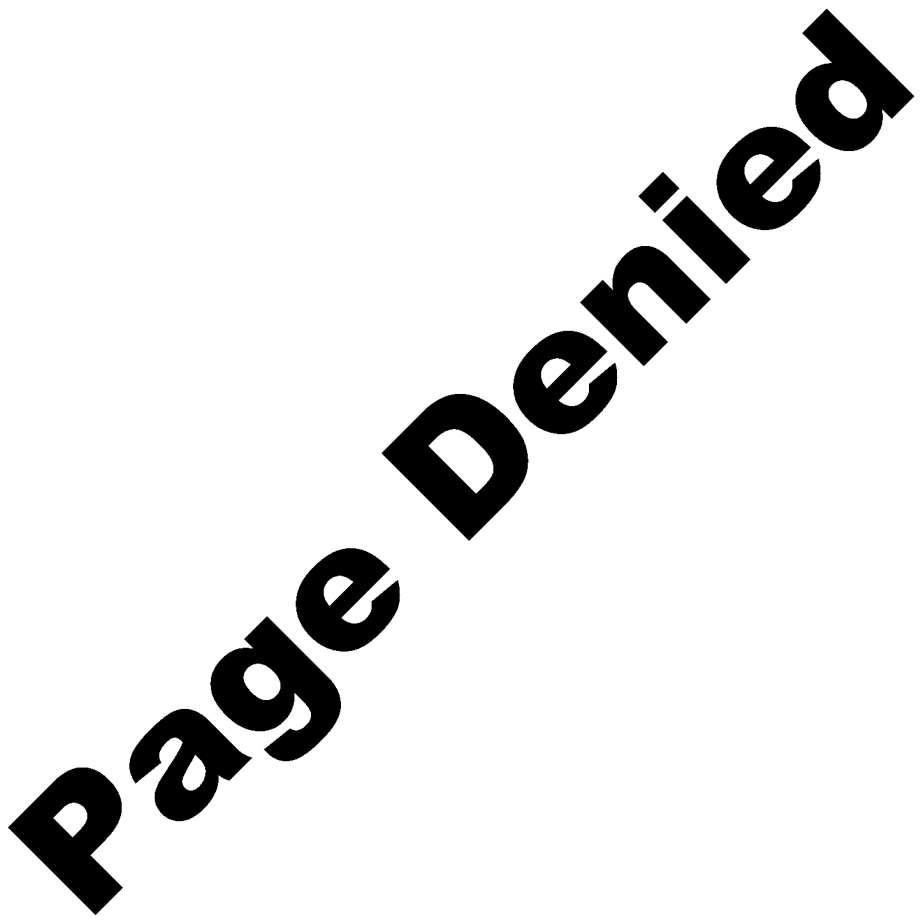

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

28 March 1980

The Honorable William E. Colby
Reid & Priest
1111 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Bill,

Thanks again for sending the text of your testimonies on Charters. As always, I found them helpful and stimulating.

I particularly liked your argumentation for not providing "any" information. I have tried hard to make a similar point, but many Congressmen do not want to recognize that there is a generic difference between legislators and secret intelligence personnel in the minds of foreign agents and liaison services.

I find the problem of prior notice a bit more disturbing than you and have been making a constitutional case against it. In short, I don't see any reason for the Congress to need to know in advance. If I understand the Constitution, the Congress has authorities to appropriate monies and legislate laws. This does not give them the right to judge Presidential decisions in advance. If they can't control the President between writing laws and regulating the flow of money to him, they do not have the right to invade his decisionmaking councils in order to exercise their will. There is, of course, the operational consideration also. Not only are there instances in which we may need to move with dispatch, but there are those in which secrecy is so essential to human life that the numbers of those informed should be kept to a bare minimum--whether they are in the CIA, the White House, or the Congress.

The only point on which I would really take issue is the PFIAB. I am sure that they did a lot of good in their day. However, the amount of oversight demanding Community and Agency attention today is so great that another board, committee or review body would be exorbitant, even with so capable a Deputy as Frank Carlucci to assist me. In short, while there is nothing wrong with PFIAB, there is a limit to how many good things we can tolerate.

Again, thanks and all the very best.

Yours,

STANSFIELD TURNER

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